Natcher promptly refused. He eventually accepted the degree, but only after other officials at the college assured him that it was not a quid pro quo.

Unlike Mr. Natcher, Mr. Conte is very personable and doesn't shy away from publicity and notoriety. It is one of his proudest accomplishments that he has received honorary degrees from 8 of the 13 colleges and universities in his Congressional district.

In addition, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst recently raised nearly $1-million for a fund, in honor of Mr. Conte, that will be used for faculty stipends and to attract talented students to the campus.

Attended Vocational School

The honorary degrees are especially important to Mr. Conte because he was not always sure that he would earn a degree himself.

"I wanted to go to college when I was a young boy. My dad just said he couldn't afford it and steered me into going to a vocational high school," Mr. Conte explains.

After vocational school, Mr. Conte worked as a machinist for the General Electric Company before being drafted into the Navy during World War II. After his discharge, Mr. Conte enrolled in Boston College, paying his tuition with money from the GI Bill. He earned a bachelor's degree and a law degree in four years.

"I guess it just became an obsession with me that everybody should have a college education if they want to go," Mr. Conte says in explaining why he was interested in getting a seat on the education-appropriations panel.

'Skin Like a Rhinoceros'

During his 16 years on the subcommittee, Mr. Conte has been a champion of student-aid programs, including Pell Grants and campus-based student aid, on which many students at the expensive, private colleges in his Congressional district rely. He is also an advocate of programs to encourage disadvantaged students to attend college.

Mr. Conte says he has had to "develop a skin like a rhinoceros" during his tenure. He is one of the most liberal Republicans in Congress and is under constant attack from his more conservative colleagues for approving what they consider to be too much money for education. Some conservative lawmakers have unsuccessfully tried to remove him from his position on the subcommittee.

'The Young Slasher'

Mr. Conte must also do battle with the Reagan Administration. He goes to the White House each year to try to persuade President Reagan to sign the education-spending bill.

"I worked with the young slasher, [the former White House Budget Director] David Stockman," says Mr. Conte. "I did all of the missionary work for the committee and I got those bills signed."

College representatives are worried that the Natcher-Conte combination will end at the close of the 100th Congress. Mr. Conte was operated on for cancer of the prostate in February, and there are rumors that he may not run for re-election in 1988.

Mr. Conte says he has been feeling better lately and has not yet made a decision on his political future. "I would say that if I feel like this next year, of course I'm going to run," he says. "But it is a matter of taking it day by day."

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

For Student-Aid Administrators, Concerns About Laws and Budgets

WASHINGTON

Student-aid administrators are predicting that the new immigration law will cause much confusion on the campuses this fall.

The revised immigration system was one of the hottest topics of discussion at the annual meeting of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators here.

Because of the new law, colleges must be able to prove that all their employees are citizens, including students who hold campus jobs and receive College Work-Study aid. Administrators say they expect delays in distributing aid to students this fall because student workers will be required to submit documents that most of them probably do not possess.

To prove they are citizens or are allowed to work in the United States, students will be required to submit such documents as an original Social Security card, an original or certified copy of a birth certificate, or a U.S. passport.

"It is very unlikely that students are going to have these things, and they can't work until they have them," said Marilyn L. Molnar, director of financial aid at Bentley College.

She said the college usually placed 1,400 students in jobs in the first two weeks of classes, but that would be impossible with the new requirements. The college plans to hire two or three clerical workers in September to help handle the increase in paperwork and answer questions.

Students who apply for aid have long been required to state whether they are U.S. citizens, and administrators say there has not been a problem with students' lying about that.

"I don't think there are illegal aliens in U.S. colleges and universities," said Ms. Molnar. "This is a 12-ton gun aimed at a small segment of the population working in the United States."

A. Dallas Martin, executive director of the association, said college groups were trying to persuade Congress to exempt student workers from the new requirement, but he said it was unlikely that lawmakers would address the issue anytime soon.

▪

Congress *has* taken care of another federal requirement that dominated the discussion at last year's annual meeting of the aid administrators in Dallas. The officials complained then that the requirement would cause confusion and a massive increase in paperwork.

The new requirement—that administrators verify the accuracy of information on student-aid applications before they distributed money—was the subject of a key conference session, at which Education Department officials sparred with campus administrators. The policy dominated informal talk at conference luncheons and dinners, too (*The Chronicle*, August 6, 1986).

Campus officials grumbled that they had to verify information on more than half the applications they received, and many said students would have to complete twice as many forms and would be confused when they were asked to submit documentation.

This year's annual meeting had only one session on the verification requirement, and it was held at the same time as meetings on 15 other topics.

Congress came to the rescue, say campus officials, who apparently are relieved with the result.

After the officials complained, Congress directed the Education Department to simplify the procedure and later voted to limit to 30 per cent the proportion of applications the department could require an individual institution to verify.

"If you ever thought that your cards and letters didn't matter, you have ample proof one year later that they did," Claire M. Roemer, director of financial aid at Tarrant County Junior College, told the association's members.

▪

New requirements from the federal government aren't the only things that are keeping aid administrators busy. Some officials who attended the conference here said they were spending more and more time helping students budget their money.

It used to be, they said, that students and parents could pay for college without doing much saving or financial planning. But tuition is so high now at many universities that "paying as you go" is impossible.

Administrators said the job was especially tough because students have many more luxury items than they used to and they don't want to give them up. Cars, television sets, telephones, and videocassette recorders are frequently among students' possessions, said Marvin G. Carmichael, director of financial aid at Clemson University. (Ironically, when Education Secretary William J. Bennett suggested that students should "divest" themselves of such possessions, many educators derided him because they said most students lacked luxuries.)

The administrators are trying a variety of tactics to help students and parents manage their money. Among them:

► Florida State Universi[illegible]fers a course for academic cred[illegible]alled "Fiscal Fitness for Students."

► Clemson University distributes a "money management" guide for students, which suggests saving money by cutting down on long-distance phone calls, taking the five-day meal plan instead of the seven-day plan, and watching television with a friend instead of going to the movies.

► Utah Valley Community College puts a pamphlet on paying for college called "From Crib to College" into the care packages that area hospitals give to parents before they take home their infants.

Administrators said it pays off to help students plan their spending. Without proper counseling, many students show up in the aid office half way through the year complaining that their money has run out.

—ROBIN WILSON

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